

**Edith Garehime Elementary School
School Organizational Team Meeting Minutes**

Location: Garehime Room 31A

Date: October 11 , 2017

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:20 pm

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lewis at 4:00 in Garehime Room 31A..

1. Members present:

Ryan Lewis, Principal
Lisa Dixon, Teacher
Johnette Mercer, Teacher
Katherine Threadgould, GATE Specialist
Josh Johnston, Parent
Heather McKnight, Parent
Amie Webster, Parent
Misty West, Parent

2. Attendance: SOT member sign-in/approval of minutes from 9/27/17

3. New items:

a. Discussion regarding the priority of spending.

Ryan asked Ms. Mercer if any of the teachers had contacted her about spending priorities. There has been no feedback yet. Ryan asked the parent SOT members if they had any input on spending priorities. January 15 will come quickly. Ms. McKnight mentioned how important technology is to 4th and 5th graders moving into middle school. Using a laptop/chromebook is different than using a desktop computer. It's a significant cost factor to the school. We have spent \$50,000 in the last two years on technology but we still don't have enough to go around for everybody. We also need a variation of technology from grade to grade so that students learn a myriad of types of technology. We need to share technology so that we can get the most return on our dollar. Most of our testing is technology based so lab access can be tricky. However, during testing, lower grades can use the chromebooks, etc. while the older grades are testing in the labs. We will constantly be replacing technology as it gets dated so we need to make sure that we replace a percentage every year so we aren't replacing all technology at the same time.

b. Curriculum Concerns:

i. Core reading and math: 5th grade does not currently have a curriculum but would like to budget for Front Row as their technology portion of the math and reading curriculum. The district does not provide curriculum materials for reading or math. We need a curriculum that flows from year to year so that students don't have gaps. Engage New York is free and Ms. Dixon knows how to implement it. Nothing really addresses the problem but we need to start with first grade and work our way up. Literacy is very important in the lower grades because students need a strong reading foundation. We will consider buying a reading program for grades 1 and 2 and then add curriculums to 3-5 each year. The SBAC is not designed for everyone to pass. It adheres to the bell curve and is adaptive based on the ability/achievement of the student. The focus should be on improvement rather than growth. We only the students to do what the grade level expectations and the ultimate goal to have every student graduate from high school. If teachers are doing their jobs well then the students should be able to do well on the test. Testing should be more of a celebration than an anxiety driven exercise.

Ms. Webster asked how she could find out what the options for curriculum programs are. This spring we will need to make a final decision about what curriculums we will use for all grades going forward.

c. Communication with GHCC:

Agendas and minutes will be posted. There will be a standing meeting before every SOT meeting to discuss upcoming events and to ask questions. Upcoming events will always be posted.

d. Public Comment (2 minutes per person):

5. Information:

- a. Next meeting: November 6, 2017 @ 4:00 pm
- b. Public Comment Period (2 minutes per person)

6. Adjournment: Lisa Dixon called for adjournment at 5:20 pm